United Nations E/CN.9/2012/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2012

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-fifth session
23-27 April 2012
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently stressed the importance of making available written reports on those meetings at the earliest opportunity (see Commission decision 2005/2) and requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (see Commission resolution 2006/1). In accordance with resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held two meetings between September 2011 and January 2012. The first meeting was held at Headquarters on 7 September 2011. The second was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 18 October 2011.

2. The first meeting of the Bureau was attended by Ambassador Hasan Kleib (Chair), Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Martina Težak Budišić and Pius Wennubst. At the time of the first meeting the African Group had not yet designated its representative. Present at the second meeting of the Bureau were Ambassador Kleib, William Awinador-Kanyirige, Ms. Težak Budišić and Mr. Wennubst. The Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other staff members of the Population Division and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at both meetings of the Bureau.

3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, including the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

* E/CN.9/2012/2.

12-21947 (E) 020212

Please recycle

II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-fifth session and suggested that two representatives of youth be invited to address the Commission on the first day of the session, Monday, 23 April, preferably from noon to 1 p.m. The presentation by the first keynote speaker for that day would therefore be shifted to the slot between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. and the informal consultations on draft proposals would begin at 4 p.m.

B. Keynote speakers

5. In its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to address the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that three expert keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme for the forty-fifth session, "Adolescents and youth", and that each speaker would be allotted an hour to make a presentation and to have an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. The Bureau selected Shireen Jejeebhoy, Andrew Mason and George C. Patton as keynote speakers. Ms. Jejeebhoy, Senior Associate at the Population Council in New Delhi, was invited to speak on "Ensuring the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth". Mr. Mason, Professor of Economics at the University of Hawaii, was asked to speak on "Adolescents and youth: their numbers and economic roles". Mr. Patton, Professor of Adolescent Health Research at the University of Melbourne, was requested to speak on "The promise and potential of adolescent and youth health". As is customary, the Bureau recommended that the working group be adjourned during the presentations made by keynote speakers.

6. The Bureau also decided to include an additional speaker slot for two representatives of youth, one female and one male, on the first day of the resumed session in order to ensure that the Commission could benefit from the perspectives of young people while it was considering the theme "Adolescents and youth". The Bureau considered that the presentations should be made early in the session in order that they would inform the deliberations held during the rest of the session.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development

7. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-fifth session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization and the World Bank. With this in mind, the Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the forty-fifth session and invite them to consider organizing side events during the session. As at other sessions of the Commission,

the Bureau welcomed the involvement of UNFPA in organizing a side event for the session.

D. Communication of the Chair with members of the Commission

8. The Bureau requested its Chair to write to all members of the Commission underscoring the need to include youth representatives as members of their delegations to the forty-fifth session. The Chair was also asked to request that delegations include technical experts on the demographic aspects of adolescence and youth. The Chair noted that he would also outline in his letter the relevance of the various items on the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session and would include information about how to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session. The Bureau agreed with his suggestions.

9. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair send an informational note to Member States not members of the forty-fifth session of the Commission to alert them of the dates and the theme of the session and to inform them of how to access the documentation for the session.

E. Relationship between the Commission on Population and Development and the Economic and Social Council

10. The Bureau discussed ways to ensure the contribution of the Commission to the annual ministerial review conducted during the high-level segment of the annual meeting of the Economic and Social Council, which, in 2012, would focus on the theme "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". The Bureau noted that since ensuring the access of young people to decent work and employment was a major challenge in many countries, considering whether and how demographic dynamics reduced or increased that challenge would be of interest. Consequently, the Bureau noted that it was important to increase the synergies between the work of the Commission and the annual ministerial review. To that end, the Bureau suggested that, as at previous sessions of the Commission, the Permanent Representatives of Member States planning to make national presentations at the annual ministerial review be invited to participate in the general debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2012 (item 5 of the agenda for the forty-fifth session) so that they might be able to discuss the relevance of population trends among adolescents and young people to the theme.

11. The Bureau also endorsed the suggestion of the Chair that the President of the Economic and Social Council be invited to launch the discussion on agenda item 5, as had been done at prior sessions of the Commission.

F. Resolutions and decisions

12. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting a decision on the draft agenda for its forty-sixth session and a resolution on the special theme of the forty-fifth session, "Adolescents and youth".

13. As at previous sessions, the Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-fifth session of the Commission to discuss proposals that might result in the adoption of resolutions or decisions. The Bureau suggested that the working group begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions in order to facilitate the deliberations of the working group and also requested that the Chair's drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

14. The Bureau also suggested that the Commission might wish to consider requesting that the special session of the General Assembly in 2014, which will be devoted to a review of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, be scheduled immediately before the general debate of the Assembly in order to maximize participation at the highest possible level.

G. Briefing for members of the Commission

15. The Bureau recommended that, at least three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fifth session, the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

16. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-fifth session of the Commission in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed posting advanced unedited versions of such documentation on the Internet in English.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

17. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-fifth session of the Commission.**

18. **The Bureau decided that three keynote speakers and two youth representatives would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme of the forty-fifth session, "Adolescents and youth".**

19. **The Bureau decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 5 of the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session and to invite the Permanent Representatives of Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review in 2012 to participate in an interactive dialogue on the relevance of population issues in promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate**

poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

20. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting a decision on the agenda for the forty-sixth session and a resolution on the special theme of the forty-fifth session, "Adolescents and youth".**

21. **The Bureau suggested that the Commission consider requesting that the special session of the General Assembly in 2014 devoted to a review of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development be scheduled immediately before the general debate of the Assembly in order to maximize participation at the highest possible level.**

22. **The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-fifth session of the Commission in order to discuss issues that might result in the adoption of resolutions or decisions and that the working group begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission.**

23. **The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions in order to facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau requested that the Chair's drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fifth session.**

24. **The Bureau recommended that, at least three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-fifth session of the Commission, the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.**

25. **The Bureau requested that the Chair of the Commission write to all members of the Commission underscoring the need to have technical experts as part of their delegations and to include representatives of youth in their delegations.**

26. **The Bureau requested that the Chair write to Member States not members of the forty-fifth session of the Commission in order to alert them of the dates and theme of the session and to inform them of how to access the documentation for the session.**

27. **The Bureau also requested the Chair of the Commission to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to participate in the forty-fifth session and to invite them to organize side events during the session.**